Title of Project: The Story of Tampa
Artist: Lynn Ash
Year Completed: 2006
Materials: Acrylic on masonite, 4’x8’
Commissioning Agency: City of Tampa Public Art Program
Location: Tampa Municipal Office Building lobby, 306 East Jackson Street

Project Description:
In 2003, the City of Tampa’s Public Art Program commissioned artist Lynn Ash to create a large painting that would weave together many of the notable aspects of Tampa’s unique character and identity. Over the course of three years, the artist researched, met with community leaders, and looked at hundreds of photographs. The end result is a collage of nearly 200 vignettes, portraits, and images that all speak to some aspect of Tampa, both past and present. The border that wraps The Story of Tampa is comprised of over 50 individual smaller “paintings within the painting,” each somehow specific to Tampa: deviled crab, citrus, cuban bread, manatees, and bananas, are just a few. Within the body of the painting the viewer will find portraits of recent and past Mayors, civic leaders, celebrities and national heroes. They will also find well-recognized landmarks, a few more obscure ones, and several memorable events. While no single artwork, novel, or film could possibly present a complete story, The Story of Tampa is a visual celebration of Tampa, the city and its people.

The mission of the City of Tampa Public Art Program is to promote the involvement of artists in projects throughout the city that embrace the physical environment and celebrate Tampa’s unique character and identity.